Diphtheria, Diagnosis Dp

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Special attention is hereby called to the fact that the Medical Inspectors are ready at all times to make cultures for the attending physicians. If the Laboratory is notified by telephone or otherwise, a Health Inspector will call and make inoculations.

It is moreover urged that cultures be made from the throats of all persons coming in contact with a case of diphtheria; since apparently healthy persons often convey virulent diphtheria bacilli in their throats.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 20 1895 189

DEAR DOCTOR:

The Bureau of Health is now prepared to make examinations of suspected cases of diphtheria. The culture tubes will be found at the Police Stations, named on the accompanying card, and it is requested that where physicians avail themselves of the services of the Laboratory that they should themselves inoculate these tubes from the throat of the suspected case, or should authorize a Medical Inspector to do so.

These cultures should be made in all cases as early as possible, for the specific organism often disappears from the throat during convalescence. The full benefit of a positive diagnosis can only be obtained where cultures are made at an early stage.

Directions for Making Inoculations.

Inoculations should be made by rubbing the cotton swab attached to the end of the wire contained in the test tube gently but freely against any visible exudate, and then drawing it over the surface of the culture medium without breaking the surface of the latter. The swab should then be replaced in the tube from which it was taken, and both tubes be replugged and put back into the box. Return the box to the Station from which it was obtained as soon as possible or bring it directly to the Laboratory. The tubes will be collected every afternoon, examined the following morning, and reports will be mailed by one o'clock, P. M. The attending physician can obtain information, however, by telephoning directly to the Laboratory after that hour.

Cases which prove to be false diphtheria will not be visited by the Health Inspectors unless requested by the attending physician. Cases on the other hand which prove to be true diphtheria will be subjected to the usual rules and regulations governing contagious diseases.

The Bureau is also prepared to examine blood, urine, gastric secretion, sputum for tubercle bacilli, and other pathological material. Instructions and directions for inoculating the tubes and for collecting pathological material for examination will be gladly given at the Laboratory.

All communications should be addressed to DR. B. MEADE BOLTON, Director of the Laboratory, Room 715 and 717, Bureau of Health.

By order of the Board of Health,

WILLIAM H. FORD, M. D., President.

A. A. HIRST, Secretary.

Diphtheria, Diagnosis Dp

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

BUREAU OF HEALTH.

Division of Pathology, Bacteriology and Disinfection.
Laboratory of Hygiene.

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